

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement on September 11, 2011, the ten-year anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001:

“Today, we pause to remember those who were lost: Virginians, Americans, and folks from all over the world. Our world has forever changed since September 11, 2001, yet Americans mark this anniversary unified with a stronger sense of purpose. As we mourn the loss of family members, innocent victims and heroes, there is a sadness of loss but an even-stronger feeling of strength and resolve from the enduring American spirit shown on that day and the ten years following.

“Each of us has a memory of that day – our own story witnessing history. I was serving on the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors, and my children were in high school and college, old enough that this event had an impact on them as it did my wife and me. We worried about them and their safety, and wondered if we knew folks on the planes; there was so much unknown. It is hard to believe that ten years have gone by since that horrible day, filled with feelings of vulnerability, anger and sadness. But amidst rubble and loss, we heard stories of heroes and survivors – stories to share with generations to come. This year, two new memorials have been dedicated in New York and Pennsylvania, following the dedication at the Pentagon a few years ago. Those memorials help preserve the memory of those lost, and the stories of survivors and heroes from that day.

“Since then, many individuals have stepped up to serve in our nation’s Armed Forces to preserve freedom. Many of those who freely gave have been wounded or given their lives. This remembrance today is, too, a memory of their sacrifice. Our country remains safe today because of their sacrifices and we should remember that some gave all in a battle to rout terrorism from the globe. Freedom is indeed not free. America remains a symbol of freedom around the world because of their service. May God continue to bless them and our country.”

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